

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., April 8, 1893.

Superintendent Mint U.S.;

Philadelphia, Penna.

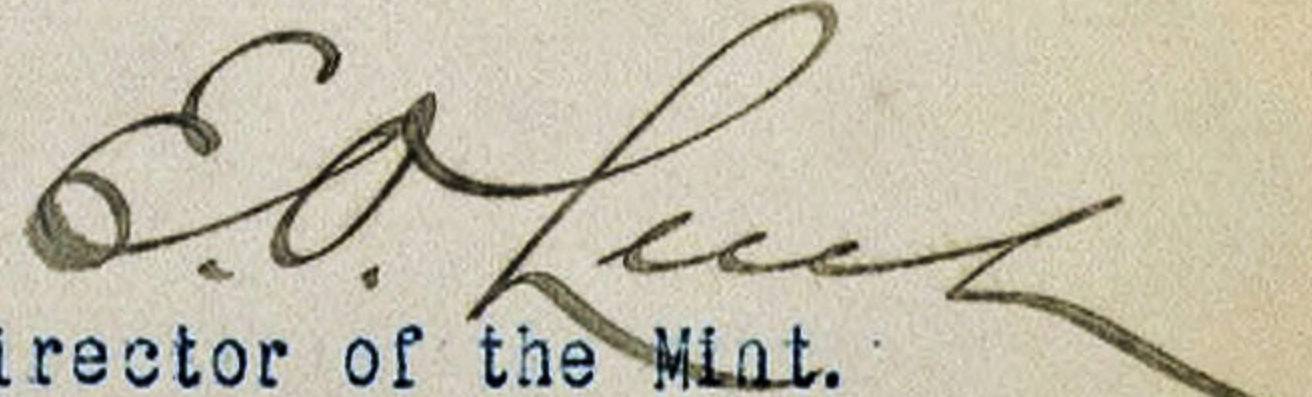
Sir:

Acknowledging the receipt of your communications of the 7th instant, relative to the souvenir quarter dollar, I would say that it seems to me that there is too much "Woman" on the coin. ^{To} ~~They~~ have a female head on the obverse, and a female ^{figure} ~~head~~ on the reverse, seems to me would be rather over-doing the female business, and would not make a suitable or an artistic coin. I suggested to Mr. Morgan that he discuss with you the propriety of a handsome oak wreath for the back of the coin, with a suitable inscription. However, the Engraver might send on a model of the second figure, and I will consider it. I must confess I fail to see why the Engraver should have any more difficulty in preparing a design for the back of this coin than for any other when I have said over and over again that I desire him to prepare an original design. While it is true that I have wished him to conform as nearly as possible to the wishes of the Lady Managers, that did not preclude the preparation of a

design which did not conform at all to their ideas, provided ~~he~~^{the} thought such design would make a more suitable and artistic coin; but in the designs so far submitted he seems to have proceeded upon the theory that his sole purpose is to make a design that will satisfy the wishes of the Lady Managers, the first ~~one~~^{three} submitted being an advertisement of the Board, and likewise, the first one of the second two submitted.

I fully agree with you that it would have been very much wiser to have left ~~this~~^{the} entire business of the preparation of this coin to the officers of the Mint Service, but I was not able to control the matter. I am determined, however, that whatever design is submitted by me for the approval of the Secretary shall be one that will conform in all respects to the dignity of our country and of the occasion for which the coin is struck, and be artistic.

Respectfully yours,


Director of the Mint.

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Bureau of the Mint,
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E.O. Leech
Director of the Mint.